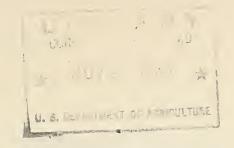
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MOISTURE STORAGE and CROP YIELDS in the DRYFARMING AREAS of the GREAT PLAINS

as affected by natural and farm operational factors



Production Research Report No. 39

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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In cooperation with
State Agricultural Experiment Stations

Contents

	Page
Presentation of data	1
Discussion	
Simple correlations between factors	3
Effects of individual factors on moisture accumulation and yield	3
Uniform plains, area, and crop factors	8
Multiple correlation coefficients	8
Summary	
Appendix (tables 2 to 32)	10

This publication was prepared in cooperation with the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas.



Moisture Storage and Crop Yields in the Dryfarming Areas of the Great Plains, as Affected by Natural and Farm Operational Factors

By H. H. Finnell, formerly research specialist, Soil and Water Conservation Division, Agricultural Research
Service 1 2

This study traces the effects of farm operational and naturally occurring factors on the accumulation of soil moisture during the idle period between crops and on crop yields in the dryland areas of the Great Plains, 1947–51. Temperature and rainfall during the growing season of the crop and the farming practices carried out while the crop was growing were not included.

An earlier report ³ dealt with the efficiency of intake and retention of moisture during the idle period between crops. The 17,680 records available for that study were analyzed on the basis of

specific locations.

The data for the present study were regrouped on the basis of three general farming areas of the Great Plains and for specific crops. Minor crop records too few or too scattered to make up a category for separate study were eliminated, and thus the total volume of available records was

reduced to 15,077.

Sampling procedure was at random within districts, so as to provide an accurate picture of average agricultural conditions of representative districts. However, certain farms that lacked detailed soil surveys or the operators of which were unwilling to cooperate in supplying desired information were excluded from the study. A farmer did not modify his practices for purposes of comparison.

¹ Retired June 30, 1959.

³ Finnell, H. H. factors affecting moisture storage efficiency of dryfarming areas in the great plains. U.S. Dept. Agr. Prod. Res. Rpt. 37, 7 pp., illus. 1960.

Within the limitations and designations of selected districts agreed upon by State agricultural experiment stations and the research committee of the Soil Conservation Service, a very good cross section of semiarid agriculture of the Great Plains has been obtained. The outline map (fig. 1) shows the location of sample districts and the regional subdivisions used in this study.

The data covered by the time interval in this study are sufficiently representative of climatic conditions in the Great Plains and of the average crop yields obtained that they could be used for other years in this region in interpreting similar

problems.

Presentation of Data

The crops represented and their distribution were such as to afford 13 groups or crop areas suitable for statistical analysis (table 1). All variables, units of expression, and factor symbols are listed in table 2, Appendix.

Means and coefficients of variation of the operational and natural variables for different crop groups in different areas of the Great Plains were determined. (Tables 3 through 9, Appendix.)

Tables 10 through 14 (Appendix) bring together for each crop group the simple correlation coefficients (r) and the corresponding standard partial regression coefficients (b) for all factors tested relative to soil moisture accumulation during the period between crops in the different areas of the Great Plains. Similar relationships for all factors and crop yields are shown in tables 15 through 19, Appendix.

Table 1.—Number of records by crops and areas, Great Plains, 1947-51

Crop	Area				
	Northern	Central	Southern		
Wheat Oats Barley Corn Grain sorghum.	Number 2,652 670 483 1,059	Number 2, 079 521 621 623 431	Number 3, 567 295 498 1, 578		

² The Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station analyzed the statistical data for the report; the State Agricultural experiment stations of Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas cooperated in the planning of the field work of this study. The Soil Conservation Service technicians personally responsible for the collection of field data at different stages of the project were Merritt E. Anderson, Chamberlain, S. Dak.; Roy V. Bailey, Perryton, Tex.; Ellis M. Baker, Oberlin, Kans.; J. D. Chapman, Las Cruces, N. Mex.; David K. Daubert, Littleton, Colo.; Alvin H. Jackson, Silverton, Tex.; Rannell R. Jones, Clovis, N. Mex.; Vincent R. Killerlain, Burlington, Colo.; Bruno Klinger, Fort Collins, Colo.; Oliver R. Nuzum, Osborne, Kans.; Olmon W. Sweat, Plainview, Tex.; William R. White, Clovis, N. Mex.; and George Truman Williams, Stanley, N. Dak.

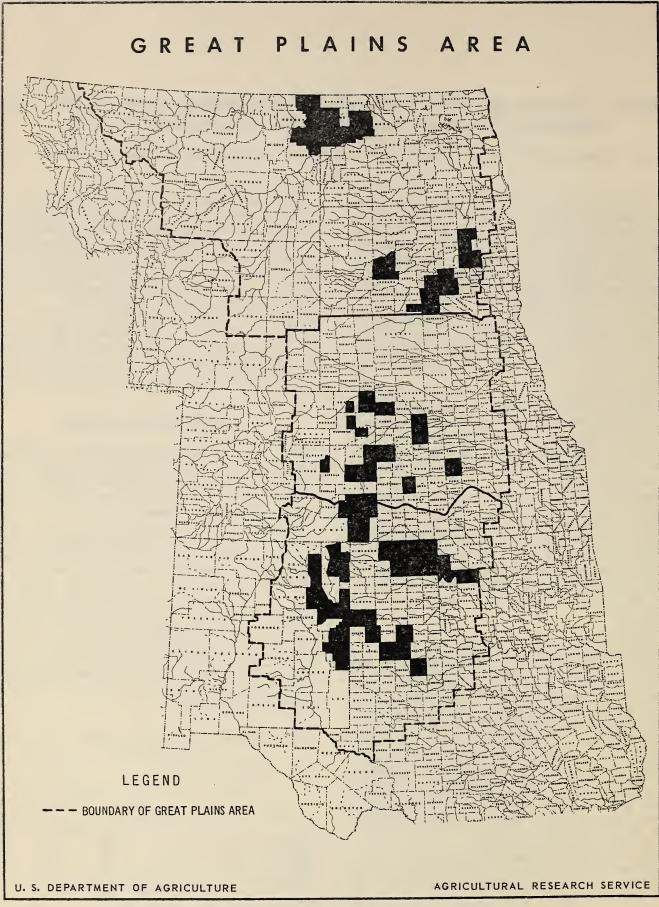


FIGURE 1.—Location of sample areas.

Complete simple correlation coefficients (r) for each of the 13 crop areas are presented in tables 20 through 32, Appendix.

Discussion

Simple Correlations Between Factors

In tables 10 through 19, significant simple correlations between variables were obtained in numerous instances in the absence of significant standard partial regression coefficients. The reverse can also be seen, as well as reversals in sign in some cases. These apparent inconsistencies probably are due in most instances to associations between independent variables that result in marked interaction in the multiple regression analyses. This causes changes in the apparent reaction of yield or moisture accumulation to the individual factors.

For example, moisture accumulation (IM) was strongly correlated in all instances with total rainfall during preparation (TR). However, in tables 20 through 32, the total rainfall (TR) is generally well correlated with a number of other factors—length of preparatory period (L), tillage intensity (D), rainfall per week (WR), and total precipitation (P). When the effects of these associated variables were removed through multiple regression in an attempt to assess the independent effect of total rainfall (TR), the significance of this variable in many cases disappeared.

Such associations occurred for most variables as would be expected where so many were considered. In no case would this behavior be con-

sidered negligible.

Standard partial regression coefficients have been relied upon to give the best available separate evaluation of each factor. Most significant was finding factors that reacted consistently with all crops in all parts of the Great Plains. Highly important, as well, were the instances of consistent behavior with respect to any readily defined physical environment. Nevertheless, special or exceptional cases should not be neglected, for they often lead to a useful, though singular, behavior.

Observation of significance for a simple correlation did not necessarily result in significance for the corresponding standard partial regression coefficients. This reflects marked interaction or association between variables as would be anticipated.

In interpreting the standard partial regression coefficients several considerations must be kept in mind:

(1) Occasional observance or failure to observe significance may be due either to chance with the

large number of variables under study or to the nature of the data.

(2) In the case of certain variables, the variation encountered may be inadequate to yield

significance.

(3) In the case of certain variables, significance may be observed in all cases due to the mechanics of analysis. For example, the effect of increased moisture storage efficiency would be to increase moisture accumulation if effects of all other variables are eliminated.

(4) In the case of certain variables, inherent associations between variables makes interpretation

difficult as previously expressed.

(5) Interpretation of certain variables, notably water conservation practices and perhaps others, may be difficult due to inherent limitations in the

original basis for indexing.

(6) The multiple regression analysis assumes linear relationships, whereas true relationships are probably curvilinear in many cases. This generally tends to reduce the level of significance observed.

These factors, although largely unavoidable, place some limitation on the interpretability of the data and must be recognized in use of them.

Effects of Individual Factors on Moisture Accumulation and Yield

Land capability (LC) is a system of grouping soils, established by the Soil Conservation Service, to indicate the potentiality and limitations of land

for sustained production.

Physical characteristics of the land and climatic environment determine the capability rating. Rating numbers were used in this study as a code to land capability. Since the numbers are inverse numerically to the desirability of the land for agricultural purposes, a negative r or standard partial regression coefficient would be the expected behavior.

Lands found in cultivation generally averaged a better capability rating in northern and southern

areas than in the central area.

Negative standard partial regressions were consistently obtained for moisture accumulation for small grains in the central Great Plains, whereas a positive relationship occurred for sorghum in the southern Plains. For yield, all significant regressions were negative for land capability, which indicates general validity of the rating system if current trends are indicative of long-term behavior.

Latitudes (La) were recorded to the nearest whole degree. Means shown in table 3 locate roughly the centers of distribution relative to other crops. Together with the altitude, the latitudes indicate the evenness of distribution within the regional areas.

Moisture storage appeared to be favored as latitude degrees moved northward. Yields did not follow any consistent pattern, and most regres-

sions were indicated as nonsignificant.

Altitude (Al) was recorded to the nearest 100-foot level for each field. Variability in elevation was greatest in the central area, where the westernmost districts lay just off the foothills of the Colorado Rockies. However, wheat and sorghum lands of the southern Plains averaged practically as high in elevation as the central area. Generally, centers of distribution indicated by latitude and altitude showed intermingling of crops. Oats was an exception in the southern area, where the center of oats production lay 1° N. of that of barley and on the rolling Plains below the High Plains caprock in elevation. Rolling topography was indicated for oat areas by a mean slope of 2.61 percent. (See table 3.)

Behavior of moisture accumulation in relation to elevation was inconclusive and generally nonsignificant. Yields of wheat in the northern and central areas and barley in the central Plains were favorably affected by increasing elevation, whereas corn yield in both northern and central areas and wheat yield in the southern Plains were adversely

influenced.

Steepness of slope (S) on cultivated land increased from south to north (table 3). Maximum slopes were about the same in all parts of the Plains, but the acreage of steeper sloping land in crops was much larger to the north. Mean slopes averaged a little over 3 percent in the northern area, 2 percent in the central, and 1½ percent in the southern. Coefficients of variation were smallest in the central Plains and largest in the southern. Fields were recorded for the prevailing slope where minor irregularities occurred.

Moisture accumulation was generally enhanced in the northern area and depressed in the southern Plains as slope increased in steepness. No apparent consistent relationship was noted for

yield and steepness of slope.

Topsoil texture (ST) was least variable in the central Plains. Coarser textured lands were used for corn production in the northern and central areas, for oat production in the northern and southern Plains, and notably for sorghum production in the southern area.

In general, moisture accumulation was enhanced by coarser textured soils, irrespective of area. Again, no consistent effect on yield in re-

lation to soil texture was observed.

Topsoil color (TC) was coded 1, light brown, to 5, black. Color corresponded roughly with topsoil organic content and darkened generally from south to north with decreasing temperature or west to east with increasing rainfall. Oats were grown on slightly darker soils in the central and southern areas. Oats and corn together occupied

the darker soils in the northern Plains. Color variability within a crop area was not large in the northern area, but in the southern Plains it rose sharply, particularly in groups with the greater variation in altitude.

Moisture accumulation was generally favored in the northern area only by darker soil color. No major effect on yield was apparent for this factor.

Erosion removals (ER) during the period of preparation were rated 0 for no erosion, to 4 for very severe erosion. Length of preparatory period was positively related to amount of topsoil removed by erosion on oats, barley, and sorghum lands in the central area. Elsewhere the simple correlation was negative or nonsignificant.

Rate of erosion was significantly higher on lands of poorer capability rating in 12 out of 13 crop areas of the Great Plains. It was more strongly and consistently linked with coarseness of topsoil texture and steepness of slope than with most

other factors recorded.

Simple correlation coefficients with erosion ran generally higher for slope than for texture, especially in the central and southern areas. This reiterates a point brought out in erosion studies of the old Dust Bowl 4 that a very substantial amount of total soil erosion in the Great Plains was caused by surface water action even in those areas where wind erosion is most spectacular.

No consistent regressions for either moisture accumulation or yield on erosion removals were

apparent.

Erosion accumulations (EA) were negligible except in the central area, and frequency was not high there. Accumulations usually occurred in fields that were also affected by erosion removals and did not cover large areas. Net effects of erosion accumulations, both on moisture accumulation and on crop yields, were not outstanding. Where erosion accumulations proved significant to moisture or to yield, the relationships were negative, with one exception.

Total rain for the preparatory season (TR) was recorded for the open part of the total preparatory period, and excluded the frostbound period, which was compiled separately as factor WP. Rainfall varied not only according to time (from year to year) and place (from field to field) but also according to length of period and season of the year. All preparatory seasons were comparable, except for winter wheat, in that they extended from harvest of the previous year's crop to spring or summer planting the following year.

The longest preparatory period average in the central Plains was for grain sorghum planted in late spring, usually after a small-grain crop harvested the summer before. This particular period

⁴ FINNELL, H. H. LAND USE EXPERIENCE IN SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS. U.S. Dept. Agr. Cir. 820, 19 pp., illus. 1949.

averaged 13.36 inches of rain, the highest recorded. Central and southern area row crops, corn and sorghum, as a group utilized the longest and wettest preparatory periods to be found in the Great Plains in regular crop sequences without summer fallow. Variability of seasonal rain was least in the northern area. The highest coefficients of variation, observed for amounts of preparatory season rainfall for oats and barley in the central area, were not entirely due to meteorological vagaries. Length of preparatory period varied more in these instances than for all other spring-planted crops, because the crop sequence in the central Plains farming areas was mixed. Spring grains frequently followed row crops as well as small grains.

No consistent relationship of this factor to moisture accumulation or yield was evident, although a general trend toward positive regression was observed. This merely confirms the fact that increasing the interval between crops, and consequently the total rainfall, does not necessarily im-

prove either moisture storage or yield.

Winter moisture (WP), recorded while soils were frozen, was considered as a separate segment of the total supply. It was of some consequence in central and northern areas but dwindled to a trace in the southern Plains. Means for the northern, central, and southern areas were 1.45 inches, 0.72 inch, and 0.01 inch, respectively.

Winter precipitation generally depressed moisture accumulation and yield alike in the central and southern Plains and gave indications of increases in certain cases in the northern areas.

All precipitation between crops (P), seasonal and winter components, were combined. Variations in the grand total of moisture supply were usually less than observed for separate fractions making up the total.

Both increases and decreases in moisture accumulation resulted from increasing total precipitation during preparation. In the few cases of significant effect on yield, the regression was

negative.

Weekly rainfall average (WR). Because of the wide range of length in active preparatory periods, the totals under TR were reduced to weekly averages in order to have some idea of the relative rate of rainfall prevailing while subsoil moisture supply was being accumulated. The seasonal rainfall means did not vary drastically between crops or areas except for winter wheat, where summer rainfall was more substantially involved.

Increasing rainfall per week in nearly every case improved moisture accumulation as expected. No benefit to yield was noted, however, and, in fact, some negative regressions were apparent. This may indicate occurrence of some other pro-

duction factor, such as fertility, which limits yield under conditions of high rainfall and short preparatory seasons.

Size of rains (I), derived from the number of days of 0.01 inch of precipitation or more, to produce the seasonal amount, TR, provides one

measure of the character of rainfall.

Through the northern and central areas size of rain did not differ drastically among the preparatory periods for spring-planted crops, but it was appreciably higher for fall-sown wheat for central and southern areas.

In the southern region the size of rain was characteristically larger for all crops, suggesting that an important part of the total moisture supply came to this area in the form of quickly

passing thunder showers.

Response of both yield and moisture accumulation to this factor was inconclusive. Both positive and negative significant regressions were

Length of preparatory period (L) was recorded in weeks. In the northern area where there was little time to spare between harvest and frost or between spring thaw and planting, the length of preparation ranged from 19 to 21 weeks, with relatively small variation. The average time devoted to preparation in the central and southern Plains was somewhat greater, and with more variation. Winter wheat in the southern area constituted one striking exception, inasmuch as planting wheat after wheat, a common practice, cut the preparation period back to the short space between harvest and fall seeding.

Moisture accumulation was generally enhanced in the central area and depressed in the northern Plains by longer preparatory periods. Yield, however, was depressed where significant relation-

ships were observed.

Mean temperature (T) of the preparatory season naturally did not correspond to the annual means of the latitudes and altitudes represented, because the preparatory periods for different crops occurred at different seasons of the year (table 6). However, they do show the conditions during which seeding date soil moisture was stored. Temperature means for different crops in the northern area are very close together, because all crops were spring planted. In both central and southern areas, preparatory period temperature for winter wheat stands out as the exception. A variety of crop sequences in these areas makes the length of preparatory period more variable, which changes mean temperatures for the different period lengths.

Moisture accumulation was generally adversely affected by increased preparatory period temperatures in the central and southern Plains. This may indicate lack of efficiency in storage of moisture on fallowed land or may result from low

storage efficiency in seasons of high temperatures or both. No consistent effect on yield was noted.

Total tillage (D) by all methods was summed for a measure of intensity of cultivation during the soil moisture accumulation period. By this yardstick the areas of most intensive cultivation in the Great Plains were the wheat and sorghum lands of the central area, followed closely by the wheat lands of the southern Plains.

Increases in the amount of preparatory tillage favored soil moisture accumulation on central area barley land and southern area sorghum land. It was adverse on wheatland. As to yields, the gross amount of tillage was nonsignificant except in the central area where excessive tillage accompanied reduction of oats and barley yields but

favored corn.

In a number of instances favorable reaction has appeared significant for various methods individually which, when included in the total of all tillage, contributed to an adverse effect from excessive amounts of soil stirred during preparation.

 $Tillage\ interval\ (TI)\ between\ operations\ varied$ most in the central and southern areas. Average frequency of tillage was greatest for wheat in all three areas. Variability in timing was smaller in the northern Plains than that of total amount of soil stirred. The opposite was true in the central and southern areas. This would seem to indicate more regularity in the northern Plains in deciding the proper time for tillage.

Moisture accumulation was generally increased by an increased interval between tillage operations. Yield behavior was mixed; both positive and negative significant regressions were observed.

Moldboard tillage (DM) included that performed by single or double moldboard plow or lister, and the total for a preparatory season was indicated by the sum of the depths of soil stirred by all such tillage operations for that period. The large coefficients of variation found in certain parts of table 7 will be recognized as derived from large numbers of fields in a group in which moldboard tillage was replaced entirely by other methods.

Soil, seasonal, and weed control requirements have most to do with the selection of tillage implements, but it must be recognized there is an element of tradition present in many places. These comments will apply in like manner to the next four subheadings.

No conclusive relationships between either moisture accumulation or yield and plow tillage

were noted.

 $Disk \ tillage \ (DD) \ included \ all \ manner \ of \ disk$ implements, but principally the one-way disk, tandem disk, disk-harrow, disk-plow, and diskcultivator. This type of tillage was more widely used during 1947-51 in the Great Plains than any other. In the northern and southern areas its use significantly reduced the stubble mulch left on the surface at the completion of preparation. Although used as much or more in the central Plains, the simple correlation coefficients do not show much effect on stubble mulch. Using the one-way disk only on heavy stubble or adjusting machines to leave the most residue on the surface may explain this observation.

As with moldboard plowing, no consistent relationships were noted for yields or moisture

accumulation.

Chisel tillage (DCh) referred mostly to newly designed implements intended to stir the soil without turning it, thus leaving a maximum of crop residues on the surface. The means and coefficients of variation in table 7 will indicate this idea was just being introduced during the period of record, largely in the central and southern areas. It had not had a thorough trial at the time of this report.

As with moldboard plowing, no consistent rela-

tionships were noted.

Cultivation (DCu) by sweep, blade, small shovel, spike, or rod implements were lumped together to represent shallow stirring of the soil. It was used most widely in the central region and

was typified best by the field cultivator.

Conservation practices (C) designed to save moisture were coded by an estimated possibility of adding to the soil moisture store, and each field scored according to the combination of practices in effect during preparation. (See footnote 1 to Most fields recorded were farmed without special water conservation practices. The average degree of conservation practice was higher in the northern and southern Plains than in the central area. In all areas it was lower on wheatland than the average for other crops.

Moisture accumulation, as expected, was generally enhanced by conservation practices as coded. A general trend toward yield improvement was also noted where such practices were

imposed.

Degree of stubble mulching (M) accomplished was measured by the amount of crop residue remaining on the surface at the end of preparation. Visual rating according to the code, 0, burned off, to 4, abundant, gave a Great Plains average, including all crops recorded, of 2.34.

Variation in stubble mulching was slightly higher on wheatland than other croplands in all Differences in mean values between crops were not great anywhere in the Plains, and the average variation was only slightly smaller in

the southern area than elsewhere.

Where significant effects were noted, increased surface residues generally improved moisture storage but it depressed yields. This is in substantial agreement with other published work.

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Weed growth during preparation (W) was estimated at the end of preparatory period from weeds standing and residues of weeds killed according to the code 1, little or no weeds, to 4, heavy weed growth. The Great Plains average by this

rating was 1.49.

Weed growth during preparation was above average in the southern area. It was no better controlled on wheatland generally than the average for all crops despite the heavier tillage expenditure, but for the all-crop average in the central area weed growth was less, in keeping with somewhat more intensive cultivation.

Increased weed growth during preparation generally depressed moisture accumulation, particularly in the northern and central areas. Effects on yield were not marked, but a trend toward increases in yield with increased weed growth

during preparation was evident.

Weed growth in competition with the growing crop (WH) was rated at harvesttime on each field. Growing season weediness increased steadily from south to north excepting for sorghum and winter wheat. Central Plains farmers, with a record of more intensive preparatory tillage, had fewer weeds at harvest of both wheat and grain sorghum than the southern area farmers. Differences in weed growth in comparable crops may be due to the particular weed species prevalent at different latitudes.

Only oats, barley, and corn were comparable between northern and central areas in respect to weediness. Here, again, farmers in the central area, where tillage totals exceeded those of the northern area in growing the same crops, recorded less weediness both before and after planting.

Variations in crop weediness increased noticeably toward the south, showing wider differences between individuals in effectiveness of weed

control.

With one exception (oat yields in the northern area) yields were depressed by competition from

weeds in the growing crop.

Moisture-storage efficiency (ME) observed at the end of preparation was measured by calculating inches of soil moisture penetration per inch of preparatory period precipitation. Local variation in moisture efficiency was least on the darkcolored soils growing oats in the northern area. Moisture efficiency for other crops in the northern area and for all crops in other areas recorded relatively greater averages of variation because of numerous operational as well as natural factors entering into its determination.⁵

In all cases and as expected, moisture accumulation was enhanced by improved efficiency of precipitation storage. Again, however, each significant response in yield was negative, indicating possibility of yield limitations due to other man-

agement factors associated with greater efficiency of storage.

In tables 10 and 11 the factor ME was omitted as an independent variable because it had not been used in a preliminary or pilot study which was later embodied in this more comprehensive report.

later embodied in this more comprehensive report. Initial soil moisture store (IM) was observed at the end of preparation on each field and recorded as depth of penetration. Mean depths for four crops in the northern area averaged 30.69 inches, in the central Plains for five crops, 33.54, and in the southern area for four crops, 31.74. Corresponding total water supplies were respectively 9, 11, and 10 inches, approximately.

Variation in initial moisture was least on northern area cornland. The most severe variation to be found was on southern area wheatland, a fact borne out by the long-time production record of

the southern Plains.

As expected, yield generally increased with increased initial store of soil moisture. One notable exception is the negative regression on cornland in the northern area. Responses were most consistent in the central region.

Time of seeding (SD) was recorded to the nearest week and coded as the number of weeks from

January 1.

In the northern Plains average dates for oats and barley came in the 16th week, followed in 2 weeks by wheat, which was followed in slightly less than 2 weeks by the planting of corn. In the central area average time for seeding oats was in the 14th week, followed by barley and corn at irregular intervals, ending with grain sorghum, usually in the 22d week. In the southern area seeding started with barley in the 11th week, oats in the 12th, and ended with grain sorghum in the 22d week.

Farmers seem in much better agreement on winter wheat seeding and grain sorghum planting dates than for the other crops. These coefficients of variation were below 10 in both regions.

Significant effects due to planting date were observed only on small grains. Consistent effects were noted only in the northern area, where yields were favorably affected by later planting of these crops.

Yields of grain (Y) were recorded in hundredweight per acre for grain sorghum and in bushels

per acre for all the other crops.

The northern area recorded the highest average yield of oats, barley, and corn, and the central area was highest in wheat and sorghum. Stability of production by areas and crops was also a point of interest. Reliability of yield increased from south to north, with coefficients of variation by areas, respectively 85, 70, and 48 percent.

Least variation of yield was observed for barley in the northern area, by wheat in the central area, and by grain sorghum in the southern area.

⁵ See footnote 3.

Uniform Plains, Area, and Crop Factors

No single factor significantly affected yield (Y) of all crops in all areas, although weed growth in the crop depressed yield in all cases except that of oats in the northern areas.

Moisture accumulation (IM) was uniformly influenced only by moisture-storage efficiency (ME), which, as previously mentioned, should be inherently true. Preparatory period rainfall per week (WR) was positively related to moisture accumulation, except for oats in the northern and southern areas. Weed growth (W) was generally depressing and water conservation practices (C)generally beneficial to moisture storage (ME). This general failure of any single factor to dominate is not surprising and serves to demonstrate the complexity of the climatic-soil-plantoperational variables. If regional behavior is considered, only topsoil color (TC) consistently affected soil moisture accumulation (IM) on all croplands in the northern area in addition to the four mentioned previously. In the central area, lower temperatures (T) during preparation, in addition to the four previously discussed, increased the soil moisture store. Surface soil texture (ST)produced significant effects in four of the five crops. In the southern area no additional factor was recorded, either operational or natural, that reacted alike on all four croplands in affecting soil moisture accumulation.

Multiple Correlation Coefficients

The magnitude of the multiple correlation coefficients indicates that some other factor or factors not assessed in this study had appreciable effects on moisture storage during preparation and that such factors may be in some way associated with ending the preparatory period immediately after the winter season. For instance, R values for moisture accumulation range from approximately 0.59 for oats and barley in the southern area to 0.87 and 0.88 for sorghum in the southern and central areas, respectively. Values were noticeably lower for spring-sown small grains and corn in the northern area than for summer row crops or winter wheat. R^2 values, which indicate the approximate fraction of the variance accounted for by the variables included, ranged from 0.35 to 0.52 for spring-sown small grains and corn in the northern area, and from 0.65 to 0.77 for other crops.

Multiple correlation coefficients were generally lower for yield than for moisture accumulation, probably as a result of failure to include growing season climatic factors in the analysis. It is well known that these factors have major effects on crop yields. No consistent overall difference in these values was noted by area or by type of crop.

R values ranged from 0.43 for corn in the northern area to 0.66 for wheat in the central area. The corresponding range in R^2 was 0.18 to 0.44, which is the general range observed in other similar studies in the Great Plains, and points up again the importance of growing-season factors.

Consistent with the decline in uniformity of moisture relations from north to south was the increase in variation of the amount of soil-stored water with which crops began their growth from north to south. Consequently average coefficient of variation of yield was 48 percent in the northern area, 70 percent in the central area, and 85 percent in the southern area.

As to yield by areas, only water conservation practices in the southern area and the extent of weed growth uniformly affected yields. Initial soil-moisture storage favorably affected all crop yields except oats in the central area.

No uniform relationships in addition to those listed above were apparent for groups of similar crops as they behaved in the three areas. For individual crops, the following additional factors were observed:

(1) Wheat yields increased as latitudes came closer to the Pole;

(2) Wheat yields were depressed with higher temperatures;

(3) Barley yields increased as stored soil moisture increased;

(4) Corn yields were reduced by higher altitudes and higher erosion accumulations;

(5) Moisture storage for wheat was reduced by frequent tillage;

(6) Coarse-textured lands used for oats and sorghum were best for moisture storage;

(7) Darker colored soils used for cornlands stored more water than lighter colored soils; and

(8) Stubble mulch increased moisture accumulation for cornland.

Summary

Average coefficient of variation for all crop yields was 48 percent in the northern area, 70 percent in the central area, and 85 percent in the southern area. This, along with a reduction in general yield level (except for wheat) from north to south, indicates a generally more stable and favorable growing season climate in the north as compared to the south. Weed competition in the growing crop reduced yields without exception in the southern and central areas, the effect tapering off in the northern Plains. The effect of water conservation practices on yields was particularly strong in the south but noticeably declined northward. Except for oats, initial soil moisture storage favorably affected yields in the central area.

Moisture accumulation was generally enhanced

by improved moisture-storage efficiency, by increased preparatory period rainfall per week and by more intense water conservation measures, and was generally reduced by weed growth during

preparation. Darker topsoil color in the northern area and lower temperature during preparation and coarser soil texture in the central area resulted in improved soil moisture storage.

Appendix

Table 2.—List of factors under study in dryfarming areas of the Great Plains for the crop years 1947-51, with designated code!

Factor symbol	Factor	Measurement, code, or rating
C	By chisel implement By cultivator By disk. By moldboard plow. Soil erosion accumulations. Soil erosion removals. Initial soil moisture at planting. Length of preparatory period. Latitude. Land capability. Stubble mulch Moisture-storage efficiency, preparatory period. Precipitation: During preparatory period: Rain per rainy day. All precipitation Total rainfall. Frostbound period. Weekly rain Steepness of slope. Seeding date. Soil texture. Temperature, mean for preparatory period. Topsoil color. Tillage interval between separate operations. Weed growth during preparatory period.	Sum of inches of soil stirred. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. Do. D

¹ Arranged alphabetically, except for precipitation during preparatory period; i.e., idle period between harvest and planting of next crop.

Table 3.—Latitude, altitude, topography, and land capability: Mean and coefficient of variation in relation to crop and area, 1947-51

Area and crop	Latitude (La)		Altitude (Al)		Land capability (LC)		Land slope (S)	
	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.
North: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Central: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Sorghum South: Wheat Oats Barley Sorghum South:	* N. 45. 86 44. 34 44. 52 44. 13 39. 47 39. 84 39. 60 39. 87 38. 94 35. 82 34. 90 34. 91	Percent 13 9 11 3 9 11 8 8 8 22 24 25	Feet 1, 846 1, 662 1, 733 1, 629 3, 725 3, 328 3, 857 3, 566 3, 328 3, 727 2, 444 3, 296 3, 888	Percent 19 20 20 20 20 26 26 26 29 26 27 25 15 21	Rating 2. 57 2. 76 2. 88 2. 78 3. 29 3. 05 3. 49 3. 02 3. 14 3. 01 2. 85 2. 42 3. 27	Percent 32 38 31 34 35 36 37 40 36 30 22 25 35	Percent 3.04 2.94 3.51 3.04 2.00 2.01 2.09 2.11 1.92 1.50 2.61 1.19 1.37	Percent 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55 55

² 1=stubble mulch; 2=stripcropping; 2=contour tillage; 3=stubble left standing through winter; 3=terracing; 4=terracing and contour tillage; 5=supplemental irrigation with diverted water; 5=stalks left standing through winter; or 5=freshly broken sod.

Table 4.—Soil characters—topsoil texture and color, erosion removals and accumulations: Mean and coefficient of variation in relation to crop and area, 1947-51 1

		То	psoil		Erosion susceptibility			
Area and crop	Texture (ST)		Color (TC)		Removals (ER)		Accumulations (EA)	
	Mean	C. V.	Mean	C. V.	Mean	c. v.	Mean	c. v.
North: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Central: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Sorghum South: Wheat Oats Barley Sorghum South: South: Sorghum South: Sorghum South: Sorghum South: Sorghum South: Sorghum Sorghum South:	Code 2. 09 2. 53 2. 11 2. 51 2. 27 2. 41 2. 40 2. 92 2. 29 2. 14 2. 77 1. 50 3. 06	Percent 62 58 63 55 37 38 43 46 38 61 49 64	Code 4. 45 4. 84 4. 77 4. 89 3. 71 4. 04 3. 63 3. 70 3. 97 2. 60 2. 99 2. 92 2. 45	Percent 14 8 10 7 23 13 24 20 19 24 33 12 28	Rating 0.10 0.09 12 07 48 45 46 70 75 30 36 07 46	Percent 390 411 333 457 148 171 161 128 125 203 167 371 163	Rating 0.05 .06 .07 .05 .27 .20 .15 .49 .55 .09	Percent 640 550 442 550 192 252 307 144 140 389

¹ See table 2 for index and ratings of soil characters.

Table 5.—Precipitation during preparatory period—seasonal rain, frostbound period, total, average per week, and average per rainy day: Mean and coefficient of variation in relation to crop and area, 1947-51

		Precipitation									
Area and crop	Seasonal ra	infall (TR)	Frostbound interval (WP)		Total (P)		Per week (WR)		Per rainy day (I)		
	Mean	C.V.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	C.V.	Mean	C.V.	Mean	c.v.	
North: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Central: Wheat Oats Barley Corn	Inches 7. 38 7. 28 7. 38 8. 24 12. 44 7. 84 7. 44 10. 74	Percent 50 41 42 42 42 47 79 78 48	Inches 1. 41 1. 48 1. 47 1. 44 . 13 . 94 . 82 . 80	Percent 73 61 62 62 62 34 71 84 64	Inches 8. 73 8. 77 8. 91 9. 65 12. 53 8. 73 8. 30 11. 48	Percent 45 43 45 41 48 72 72 47	Inches 0.35 .36 .36 .37 .57 .29 .31 .38	Percent 40 36 30 35 37 52 58 42	Inches 0. 32 . 37 . 35 . 38 . 41 . 31 . 29 . 34	Percent 41 38 37 34 34 39 38 32 31	
Sorghum_South: Wheat_Oats_Barley_Sorghum_Sorghum_	9.87 11.72 8.55 9.69	48 51 50 60 54	.90	72 86 	9. 83 11. 71 8. 61 9. 65	52 50 60 54	. 42 . 65 . 34 . 29 . 29	38 43 41 55 55	. 38 . 50 . 46 . 41 . 41	31 32 37 39 36	

Table 6.—Length of preparatory period, temperature, amount of tillage, and intervals between tillage operations: Mean and coefficient of variation in relation to crop and area, 1947-51

Area and crop	Length of I	Length of period (L)		Temperature (I)		Tillage (D)		Tillage interval (TI)		
	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.		
North: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Central: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Sorghum South: Wheat Oats Barley South: Sout	Weeks 20. 10 19. 08 19. 27 21. 26 22. 09 23. 36 22. 16 27. 31 30. 11 15. 37 32. 15 27. 76 33. 04	Percent 39 22 28 20 47 44 42 25 31 27 31 22	68.68 68.68 60.58 60	Percent 15 11 12 11 10 14 17 11 11 11 17 15 17 14	Inches 6. 36 4. 07 4. 17 4. 49 12. 36 6. 95 6. 95 6. 05 10. 41 9. 81 6. 45 5. 56 6. 49	Percent 82 98 93 103 51 78 79 67 67 49 50 65 54	Weeks 13. 16 15. 72 15. 69 16. 97 6. 55 13. 41 12. 71 18. 20 12. 63 5. 61 19. 54 18. 93 21. 63	Percent 50 36 37 39 71 49 50 48 65 61 41 38 45		

Table 7.—Tillage operations—by moldboard, disk, chisel, cultivator-type implements: Mean and coefficient of variation in relation to crop and area, 1947-51

		Depth							
Area and crop	Moldboard (DM)		Disk (DD)		Chisel (DCh)		Cultivator (DCu)		
	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	
North: Wheat Oats. Barley Corn Central: Wheat Oats. Barley Corn Sorghum South: Wheat Oats. Barley Corn Sorghum South: Sou	Inches 1. 58 2. 88 2. 72 1. 71 1. 26 77 77 1. 23 1. 09 47 1. 14 1. 18 2. 71	Percent 171 246 276 148 195 270 293 168 211 342 211 561 102	Inches 2. 63 2. 25 2. 55 2. 19 6. 38 3. 58 3. 59 3. 58 4. 82 5. 86 4. 02 3. 45 1. 69	Percent 113 95 94 127 61 80 75 66 77 59 666 76 148	Inches 0.17 .02 .05 1.28 .62 .65 .65 1.80 1.65 .83 1.56 1.15	Percent 682 1, 550 920 201 316 269 271 189 179 248 180 216	Inches 1. 98 . 09 . 91 . 59 3. 47 2. 00 2. 06 . 59 2. 70 1. 84 . 42 . 32 . 96	Percent 156 1,778 202 283 128 176 169 352 146 178 293 406 193	

Table 8.—Cultural conditions—water conservation practices, stubble mulching, and weed growth during preparatory period and during crop season: Mean and coefficient of variation in relation to crop and area, 1947-51 1

	Water conse	rvation (C)	Stubble n	Stubble mulch (M)		Weed growth			
Area and crop					Preparatory period (W)		Crop season (WH)		
	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	
North: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Central: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Sorghum South: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Sorghum South: Wheat Oats Sorghum South: Sorghum South: Sorghum South:	Index 1. 27 1. 61 1. 66 1. 57 60 66 58 63 59 81 1. 37 1. 56 1. 18	Percent 127 119 119 113 205 214 205 200 229 191 143 141 145	Rating 2. 14 2. 39 2. 40 2. 35 2. 34 2. 34 2. 39 2. 61 2. 32 2. 21 2. 03 2. 59 2. 31	Percent 44 33 33 43 43 42 36 37 34 38 39 35 25 32	Rating 1. 41 1. 52 1. 56 1. 26 1. 53 1. 22 1. 35 1. 46 1. 73 1. 65 1. 49 1. 92	Percent 55 59 60 52 48 44 44 46 66 53 53 54 37	Rating 2. 47 2. 90 2. 85 2. 68 1. 73 2. 11 2. 11 2. 16 1. 96 1. 79 1. 67 1. 66 2. 09	Percent 38 22 26 24 49 42 40 43 46 54 56 36	

¹ See table 2 for index and ratings of cultural conditions.

Table 9.—Moisture-storage efficiency, soil moisture at planting, date of planting, and yields: Mean and coefficient of variation in relation to crop and area, 1947-51

		Preparat	ory period					
Area and crop	crop Moisture efficiency (ME		Soil-moisture	storage (IM)		enting (SD)	Yield per acre (Y)	
	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.	Mean	c.v.
North: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Central: Wheat Oats Barley Corn Sorghum South: Wheat Oats Barley Sorghum South:	Inches 4. 39 3. 81 3. 97 3. 60 3. 24 4. 82 4. 75 3. 58 2. 95 3. 27 3. 57 4. 59 4. 74	Percent 68 55 58 83 65 71 75 63 59 68 94 95 64	Inches 33. 17 29. 05 30. 85 29. 68 35. 35 31. 04 29. 48 35. 55 36. 28 29. 37 32. 84 28. 13 36. 65	Percent 46 40 42 34 48 48 53 43 39 56 48 46 47	Weeks 17. 57 15. 64 15. 44 19. 21 33. 96 13. 28 14. 89 19. 93 22. 02 35. 02 11. 41 10. 99 21. 64	Percent 35 14 14 19 7 17 36 10 6 8 63 76 9	Cwt. 15. 82 31. 45 22. 98 21. 83 20. 22 24. 85 17. 02 19. 41 12. 43 11. 57 16. 78 16. 25 9. 79	Percent 48 50 47 49 60 74 82 67 68 89 88 94 71

Table 10.—Wheatlands: Factors affecting soil-moisture accumulation (IM) in the Great Plains, 1947-51 1

	Norther $(n=2,652;$		Centra $(n=2,079;$		Souther (1=3,567;)	
· Factor symbol ²	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients
LC	-0.054 .356** .186** .209** -138** .034 .025 .072* .059 .191** .13** .50** .291** .334** .275** -166** .380** .372* .027 .015 .356** .466**	0.035 .279** .011 .006 .100** .015 .037 .006 .025 .035 .137 .254** .088** .264** 160 .130** 089** .081** 011 108* .018*	-0.202** .142** -109** -272** .145** .095** -066* -047 -023 .489** .082** .122** .109** .263** .171** -144** .096** -010 .592** .171** .125** .190** .294**	-0.045** -011 -029 -082* 023 012 026 -067** -014 -286** -021 -024 -046 -028 -049* -040** -011 -179** -021 -117** -517** -624**	0.048 .025 .010 140** 057 .117** 023 014 .063* .299** .108** .119** .130** .346** 090** 052 211** .539** .17** .539** .346**	0.014 .014 .014 .022 .014 -005 .057**019034**008 .050 .134** .225** .274**276* .078**011036**004 .413** .117** .031**079** .133 .639**

^{1 *=}Significant at 5-percent level; **=significant at 1-percent level.

Table 11.—Oatlands: Factors affecting soil-moisture accumulation (IM) in the Great Plains, 1947-511

	Northe (n=670; 1		Centra (n=521; 1		Southe (n=295; 1	rn area R=0.5895)
Factor symbol ²	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard par- tial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard par- tial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard par- tial regression coefficients
LC	0.074048031146** .163** .150** .101** .208**076*044046046199** .258** .112** .259** .401**052	-0. 106* .140** .029 .017 .174** .155** .223** .180**074421**116 .159	-0.321**060311** .150** .177** .116**128**030 .040 .329** .088* .155** .117** .272**017302** .080158** .461** .452** .289**	-0.186** -0.73* -117* -356** .063 .226* -026 -009 .006 .290* -049 -166 -043 -105 .295 .058 -106** .120** .077 -078 .288** -048	0.005 .253** 107 022 076 .245** .045 .341** .078 .030 .197** .238** 047 .095 042 107 .358** .343**	0.038 218** .125207** .009 .169*216* .322** 218082112184 .055 .238 .038 .039 .145* .010203 .265 .028
P	. 188**	084	. 474**	. 274	. 359**	. 122

^{1 *=} Significant at 5-percent level; **= significant at 1-percent level.
2 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

² See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

Table 12.—Barley lands: Factors affecting soil-moisture accumulation (IM) in the Great Plains, 1947-51 1

	Northe (n=483; 1		Centra $(n=621; I$		Souther (n=498; I	
Factor symbol ²	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients
LC La	0. 048 . 041 . 022 - 1.34** . 080 . 043 . 147** . 206** . 195** - 038 . 025 - 070 . 004 - 018 . 124** - 298** . 302** . 262** . 369** . 66** . 166**	-0.087 .200** .202** -0.10 .315** .068 .153** .066 .048 -1.173 -140 .064004 .533 .267**262** .258** .119** .328** .028031	-0.267**025163**014 .115** .124**059049 .016 .302** .132** .145** .092* .017 .159** .094*253** .142**035 .452** .427** .210** .107** .456**	-0. 230** 077 006 357** . 105 . 182** . 087* 001 . 032 . 044 034 161* 112* 323** . 457** . 121* 056 . 156** . 023 . 055 . 190* 081* 107* . 446	0.039 .232** 254** .093* 013 .167** .064 .223** .023 .133** .100* .065 .147** .000 .213** 118** .163** 052 120** .348** .336** .207** .061 .357**	0.071 .242** 328** 298** .030 .023 269** .154** 050 .031 .007 012 .153 058 .165 012 .130** .098* .042 066 .232* .028 .053 .261

^{1 *=}Significant at 5-percent level; **=significant at 1-percent level.
2 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

Table 13.—Cornlands: Factors affecting soil-moisture accumulation (IM) in the Great Plains, 1947-51 ¹

	Northe (n=1,059;		Central area $(n=623; R=0.8080)$				
Factor symbol ²	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients			
T. C	0.001**	0.004	0.051**	0.004			
<i>LC</i>	0. 201** 213**	0.004 019	$-0.251** \\ .209**$	-0.084 067			
La	213 001	.031	339**	1067 106			
T	134**	013	060	267**			
TC	. 212**	.174**	.302**	.113**			
ST	110**	. 041	. 056	. 183**			
S	180**	.109**	091*	024			
ER	. 195**	. 016	- . 003	. 046			
EA	. 216**	.036	016	−. 108*			
$L_{}$. 129**	−. 127*	. 126**	. 099			
DM	. 018	057	154**	.042			
<i>DD</i>	. 043	. 003	069	009			
DCh	013	.000	184**	. 006			
DCu	050	 035	. 048 174**	018			
D	.024	. 183	.319**	. 046 . 172**			
W_{-}	091**	076**	096*	013			
C	.154**	. 134**	.118**	013 013			
M	.045	.109**	.124**	.103**			
TR	.480**	.134	.465**	.083			
WR	.556**	. 295**	.483**	.180*			
I	. 025	146**	. 132**	040			
WP	. 098**	—. 057	. 164**	085*			
N	. 455**	. 314	.469**	. 452			
ME	. 144**	. 284**	. 332**	. 491**			

 $^{^{1}\,*=\!\}mathrm{Significant}$ at 5-percent level; **=significant at 1-percent level. 2 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

Table 14.—Sorghum lands: Factors affecting soil-moisture accumulation (IM) in the Great Plains, 1947-51

accumuta	accumulation (IM) in the Great Plains, 1947-51												
	Central (n=431; I		Southern area (n=1,578; R=0.8714)										
Factor symbol ²	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients									
LC La Al Al TC ST ST ER EA L DM DD DCh DCu D TI W C C	-0.246** -126* -126* -136** 102* -060 -155** -183** -222** 050 069 043 100* 125* -003 -206** -103*	0.017017046129**051 .099**019312** .018 .405** .076 .033 .028 .005115 .027036 .012	0.296** .235** .080*405**080* .319** .132** .083**050140**165**076* .015 .016 .020029	0.111** .103**031205** .017 .095**026 .023121** .027382**392**286** .006 .001 .030*									
M TR. WR. I WP. P. ME.	. 103 . 025 . 454** . 458** . 171** . 061 . 442** . 344**	.001 829** .490** .050 028 1.199** .726**	. 157** . 228** . 242** . 076* 029 . 220** . 485**	. 056** . 284* . 236** . 054** 049** . 229 . 810**									

^{1 *=}Significant at 5-percent level; **=significant at 1-percent level.
2 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

Table 15.—Wheat: Factors affecting yields (Y) in the Great Plains, 1947-51 1

	Northern ar $R=0$.		Central are $R=0$.		Southern are $R=0$.	
Factor symbol ²	Simple corre- lation coefficients	Standard partial regression coeff cients	Simple corre- lation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple corre- lation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients
LC	-0.093** .233** .226** .097**227**008012 .047 .036 .052 .028 .050 .089** .273**237**206**008070* .165** .182**083**198** .100** .235** .343** .164**	-0.042 .071* .087** -128** -045 .014 .028 .012 .001 -019 -032 .032 .049 .131 -056 -048 -128** -015** -006 .789** -073 -088** -057* .076** -209** .157**	-0. 119** . 104** . 015 -0. 039 . 104** . 047 . 029 246** 303** . 119** 168** . 068* 097** . 244** 141** . 109** 026 . 048 006 . 125** . 140** . 360** 468** . 021	-0.053* .047* .246** -0.63* .199** .017 .085**048*151**245**066063117** .085015 .109**034 .029067** .063137** .061**095** .001100** .365**	-0. 218** . 100* - 229** . 205** . 047 - 080* - 004 - 048 - 128** - 066* - 054 - 047 . 038 - 042 . 032 - 018 . 125** . 003 - 203** - 191** . 076* - 111** - 201** . 016 - 133** - 338** . 057	-0.085** .136** .133** .125** -147** -067** .085** .061** .085** .039 .004 .014 .004 .145 .029 .035 .048** .131** .192 .190** .106** .100* .062 .039 .018278** .049**

 ^{1 *=} Significant at the 5-percent level; **=significant at the 1-percent level.
 2 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

Table 16.—Oats: Factors affecting yields (Y) in the Great Plains, 1947-511

TABLE 10.—Oats: Fac	ctors affecting	yielas (1) ii	i the Great Pi	ains, 1947-0	1 1	
	Northe (n=670;	ern area R=0.4926)	Centra (n=521; I		Southe (n=295; 1	
Factor symbol ²	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients
LC'	-0.045063090271** .103**037076* .028 .002149**060220**122**198** .231** .048 .126** .042 .156** .171**204**021 .012 .076* .058 .278**	0.026106106101102* .031129**101* .071088233*100101013 .013 .245 .221*081033 .034 .236088 .046155**035030 .018 .028 .267**	-0.168**035051038111*173**148**086*085060005043033002002002042043129**005053117**067225**494**051	-0.065016039141*119**043 .087104 .200 .301 .412 .382* .587*947*053 .051027007 .220 .181082041252 .087 .093417** .028	-0. 223**034064 .127* .003050202** .138* 026 .074 .094 .108 .128*158**038017079284** .359** .178** 056 .265**325** .178**	-0. 132 037 157 027 013 041 159 152* 281 193 274 182 162* 110 094 019 151* 004 995 022 003 582 080 172* 301** 093

^{1 *=} Significant at the 5-percent level; **= significant at the 1-percent level.
2 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

Table 17.—Barley: Factors affecting yields (Y) in the Great Plains, 1947-51 1

	Northern a R=0		Central ar		Southern as R=0.	
Factor symbol ?	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple correlation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients
LC	-0.091* .075074094*011124**023 .074 .011029005094 .022006058 .119**159**022 .099* .087 .183**014252** .011 .063 .198**187** .217**	-0. 090 095 082 056 046 059 008	-0. 087*	-0. 262** 041	-0. 168** 271** -136** 061 077 111* 207** 085 062 014 012 089* 040 135** 069 020 084 228** 018 050 063 125** 010 045 129** 008 199** 008 199** 008	-0.071268** .087111034 .047049 .029063056056056056050 .136062010077 .255**031 .493 .048 .016 .058439*265** .192**237**

^{1 *=}Significant at the 5-percent level; **=significant at the 1-percent level.

3 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

Table 18.—Corn: Factors affecting yields (Y) in the Great Plains, 1947-51 ¹

Table 19.—Sorghum: Factors affecting yields (Y) in the Great Plains, 1947-51 1

		ern area R=0.4314)		al area R=0.5657)			ea (n=431; .6124)	Southern ar R=0.	ea (n=1,578; .5067)
Factor symbol ²	Simple cor- relation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Simple cor- relation coefficients	Standard partial regression coefficients	Factor symbol ²	Simple cor- relation co- efficients	Standard partial re- gression co- efficients	Simple cor- relation co- efficients	Standard partial re- gression co- efficients
LC	133** 088** 120** .023 .192** 007 .038 .072* .128**	-0.055080236**107**036 .093** .053 .096174**224** .132 .014 .044002086	-0.268**408**144332**056108**029088*034044128**022059079	0.004 .057 -484*** -017 -107 -105 -023 -061 .122* .010 -283 -380 -296 -391* .901*	T	-0.192**202**146** .243** .076 .088159** .059 .040 .223**000 .282** .271** .133** .357**	0.016 095* .145 .015 .115 .040 093 064 .068 004 .120 .212 .210 .090 119	-0.129**009092**001 .078*104**066*091**067*011 .090** .069* .249** .124** .319**	-0.136*053 .065061*041 .043087* .002025188*009 .042 .067 .035
TI. W. C. M. TR. WR I. WP. P. ME. IM. WH SD.	055 137** . 036 023 005	087 .101** .020 091* 1.217** 024 049 723* .044* 178** 076* 038	046 079 .071 .132** .082* .060 .130** .116** .081 .101* .236** 246** 107**	. 058 - 004 . 033 . 053 . 535 - 201 . 033 . 086 536 . 056 . 151* 249**	TI	266** 039 102* 043 349 ** 250 ** 198 ** 029 334 ** 003 329 ** 246 ** 064	172** . 084 . 099* . 110* 1. 992* 167 . 102* . 139 -1. 871* 046 . 260** 226** . 003	204** 008 266** 090** 177** 210** 047 068* 154** 067* 083** 156** 077*	. 129** . 051** . 226** - 081** . 332 . 070 123** . 087** 211 025 . 058 217** 031

^{1 *=} Significant at the 5-percent level; **= significant at the 1-percent level.
2 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

 $^{^1}$ *=Significant at the 5-percent level; **=significant at the 1-percent level. 2 See table 2 for definitions of factor symbols.

Table 20.—Wheat group for northern area (n=2,652),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
CC													-0.048 .304 .222 .310 240 052 095 029 055 .306 .174 029 005	-0.160 .23: .100 .38813:03:09: .03: .000 .500 .555 .488
).Cu														
VP ME M VH														

 $^{^{1}}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.062 are significant at $P\!=\!0.05.$

Table 21.—Oat group for northern area (n=670),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA.	L	DM	DD	DCh	DCu	D
LC La			0.008 .110 .149	0.044 539 598	0.382 300 .023	0.606 217 .365	0. 242 102 . 107	0. 201 119 . 078 085	0.001 023 024	-0.225 .016 227	-0.012 007 044	-0.032 002 .009 019	-0.108 .066 .035	-0.177 .080 129
T								.081 .119 .134	.410 .088 127 .013 110	.127 .003 024 238 005	. 297 . 015 090 . 006 . 020	019 .018 .010 052 011	041 022 059 068	.274 004 072 154 046
EA L DM									099	066 . 251	. 036 . 535 . 058	009 003 018	008 086 . 321 . 284 . 187	040 052 . 563 . 686
DCh DCu D D													020	000 .649
W C M TP														
VR														
ME M VH SD														
							1		1				}	

 $^{^{1}}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.071 are significant at $P\!=\!0.05.$

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	0.101212035 .097 .101 .000 .078040055 .146062 .119025056002 .044										0. 195 584 357 180 381 076 088 017 071 017 093 290 220 220 260 171 012 092 016 008 117 063 001 220 237	0.110150022040 .093036 .078 .098 .172079 .094001 .036 .033003 .002082 .004 .190 .088 .115 .020 .183027 .030 .042	-0. 093 -283 -226 -097 -227 -008 -012 -047 -036 -052 -028 -050 -089 -273 -237 -206 -008 -070 -165 -182 -083 -198 -198 -100 -123 -285 -343 -164

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	0.004014 .008 .267 .002017 .076057048 .420098 .393026 .135 .210182										0. 042 422 178 070 300 124 010 047 004 098 031 020 038 048 074 109 016 164 128 089 199 089 089 089 089 089 089 089 062	-0.062 .257 .028 .189 -097 -010 -047 -001 -028 -128 -128 -046 -003 -047 -033 -120 -048 .105 .172 .231 .132 .154 -090 .055 127	-0.045 -063 -090 -271 103 -087 -076 -028 -002 -149 -060 -220 -173 -122 -198 -042 -156 -171 -204 -021 -012 -076 -058 -278

Table 22.—Barley group for northern area (n=483),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
LC														
WP P ME IM WH SD														

¹ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.089 are significant at P=0.05.

Table 23.—Corn group for northern area (n=1,059),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
C													-0. 182 149 -045 -081 -137 045 -199 -059 -048 150 293 001	-0.030000110000000000
T														
E f H														

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.062 are significant at $P{=}0.05.$

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	0.043 151 008 .315 .022 .022 021 092 093 .403 .343 .123 .183 .281 .190									0.048 .041 .022 -134 .080 .043 .147 .206 .194 -038 .025 -070 .050 .004 .018 .124 -298 .302 .157 .262 .369 -088 -059 .167 .490	0.064 -, 386 -, 220 0.033 -, 335 -, 167 -, 006 -, 119 -, 158 -, 154 -, 068 -, 027 -, 085 -, 016 -, 119 -, 076 -, 062 -, 064 -, 220 -, 214	-0. 117 .444 .115 -001 -262165081016042 .043128 .071 .069036033037 .113 .115 .1158 .101 .004 .025275	-0. 091

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	-0.018 .072 .092 .116 -1.166 -0.79 .000 -0.057 -0.025 .091 -1.107 .064 -0.20 .014 .014 .020									0.201213001134212110180195216129018043013050024045091154045095095091154045095095144	0.105211122148 .199 .098012 .111 .113138196148019109109109109109109109109109	0.003003003007036119036019016014 .030015 .012 .007014 .017 .017 .386 .015 .016	-0. 151

Table 24.—Wheat group for central area (n=2,079),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
C														

 $^{^{1}}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.062 are significant at $P\!=\!0.05.$

Table 25.—Oat group for central area (n=521),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
<i>C</i>		0.406 .156	0.004 173	-0.215 078	0.077	0.603 .055	0. 1 21	-0.007	0.024	-0.029 019	-0.086	0.089	0.036	-0.00
1 l				675	.304	012	.015	101	056 . 054	019 056	044 205	009 . 098	024 007	0 0
					083	.054	. 077	.059	. 756	. 135	. 393	. 157	. 314	. 5
<u> </u>					 133	. 028 003	087 . 103	015 . 159	107 070	057 . 074	. 094 057	169 . 013	062 107	0 0
							. 161	.001	.033	.013	006	.016	030	0 0
Ŗ								.672	. 101	.078	.074	.050	.062	. 1
4									.058	$049 \\ .132$. 108 . 414	.006	. 069	.1
M											 156	030	. 113	
D												. 049	. 041	
Ch Cu														
2														
P														
E														
f														
H														
D														

¹ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.084 are significant at P=0.05.

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	0.184022 .085073100 .013 .097 .172 .150092024094 .001117151 .108								-0.138 .064169 .315 .157 .013 .001145095 .31023163145109247037101 .053 .183400208041099393	-0. 202 142 109 272 145 095 066 047 023 489 082 122 109 158 263 171 144 096 010 592 171 125 595 294	0.119036 .006007028042 .052 .148 .225153060 .008 .047023013135 .143073 .047178043051151159095273	-0.076 .031256 .251 .160059039050050 .051 .074202 .047 .074 .022009 .086 .090144021005035	-0.119 .104 .015 -039 .104 .047 .029246303 .119034096 .168 .068097 .244141 .109029 .124026 .048046 .048006 .125 .140 .360468 .021

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	l w	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	VV		11/1	1 It	WI	1	WF	F	ME	1111	VV 11	<i>BD</i>	
						-0.182 -161 -363 -237 -255 -095 -047 -067 -131 -256 -038 -211 -079 -056 -188 -045 -037 -036 -088 -462 -541					0.057 .004 -126 .070 001 .103 .111 .121 .263 .083 .028 .061 .058 .104 .133 091 047 .038 015 .010 .024 .024 024 024	0. 172 .119 .316 .054 -345 .085 .034 .044 -012 .126 .088 .070 -005 .101 -010	-0.169 -0.35 -0.051 -0.038 -111 -1.73 -1.48 -0.66 -1.87 -0.055 -0.60 -0.055 -0.43 -0.02 -0.02 -0.042 -0.042 -0.043 -0.055 -0.053 -0.050 -0.053 -0.07 -0.054 -0.055 -0.053 -0.07 -0.054 -0.054 -0.055 -0.054 -0.055 -0.054 -0.055 -

Table 26.—Barley group for central area (n=621),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	DCh .	DCu	D
LC														
WP WP ME														
WHSD.														

 $^{^{1}}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.074 are significant at $P{=}0.05.$

Table 27.—Corn group for central area (n=623),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
C			-0.025 .020 136	-0.509 .417 791 .133	0. 187 . 338 . 306 102	0. 574 171 . 231 . 021	-0.027 .176 067 127	-0.067 .236 121 145	0. 161 160 . 039 . 606	0.428 295 .377 006	-0. 152 . 013 198 . 196	0. 218 053 . 214 . 056	-0.041 056 020 .190	0. 203 204 . 162 . 232
TC TT ER EA									. 005 129 . 091 105 159	216 . 028 . 111 046 026	156 157 100 . 004 . 053	136 . 138 . 093 . 032 . 001	051 024 055 027 046	050 036 009 025 009
DM DD DCh DCu														. 373 . 437 . 458 . 403 . 638
OO TI V J														
^r R VR VP														
1E M VH						-								

¹ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.082 are significant at P=0.05.

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	0. 281 .001 .296 .052 -238 -023 .091 .071 .026 -012 -034 .005 .027 .071 -017 -100										-0.003 .061 -135 .077 .104 .059 .033 .035 .024 -019 -004 .035 .048 -059 -112 .009 -032 -068 -085 .064 -011 -006 -057 -098	0.185120316420328008053014064117064117064117064117064117064117133008167133008167133008167133008164206008008008	-0.087 -0.131 -1.196 -0.71 -0.556 -0.32 -0.16 -0.062 -1.120 -0.062 -1.131 -1.143 -1.111 -2.203 -1.07 -0.556 -0.46 -0.37 -0.65 -0.78 -0.02 -0.35 -1.74 -1.67 -1.378 -0.55

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	0. 236 183 205 023 035 032 089 014 005 002 181 084 147 014 127 142 142				1			1			0.007 .043 -044 .042 .049 .047 .107 .102 .005 .031 .018 .043 .029 .019 .019 .014 .036 .037 .045 .048 .048 .048 .048 .048	0.091090126207068027013076046196129045128128183217027084069114070151083055052025	-0. 268

Table 28.—Sorghum group for central area (n=431),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
C					0.044 .101 .082 062 087	0.600 .329 .079 144 062 .084	0.157 .003 008 .048 019 .188	0. 210 . 039 . 109 . 002 111 . 229 . 046	-0.051 029 006 560 025 005 038	0.141 .127 095 025 .017 016	-0.158 286 167 .311 .013 .003 184	-0.012 139 .000 .222 037 .116 036	-0.129 034 121 .192 .064 053 122	-0.115 194 185 .370 .029 .015 128
ER EA DM DD OCh CCu									. 145			.312 .241 .164 084 .143	.045 .036 .339 002 .036	. 298 . 199 . 349 . 165 . 537
) [] V														
7. 1 "R. VR.													-	
VP														
ME M VH														

 $^{^{1}}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.098 are significant at $P{=}0.05.$

Table 29.—Wheat group for southern area (n=3,567),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
LC La Al T T TC ST ST SE ER DD D D D D D D C D C T T T T T T T T T														
M														

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.062 are significant at $P{\rm =}0.05.$

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	0.143 .099 .152 214 124 006 .048 .160 .173 088 .009 092 108 144 179 .159							-0.161165271 489 .088079 .400 .312 .670045 .322 .239 .211 .387047056 .009168 .994 .697 .407 .369	-0.115004020227047 .113025332327438097049011049090153039134468308270302486	-0.246126236 .136 .102 .169060155183 .202 .050 .069 .043 .100 .125003206 .025 .454 .458 .171 .061 .442 .344	-0.035004026005012102097054 .028 .067039 .058035 .171082017118041138041021043 .006074	0.015058054001032023 .125 .109091 .128 .053 .068 .097094009034119 .117 .240 .190033 .169176 .099 .027	-0. 192 202 146

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	0.083175 .176 .020017037101 .068 .035043064183054049222 .232							0. 011 019 033 269 043 037 042 012 145 569 097 299 154 096 410 014 056 054 328 997 684 347 328	0.056 0.046 0.042 0.039 -0.030 1.152 0.026 0.011 -0.035 -1.08 0.041 -0.045 0.03 0.036 0.055 -0.244 -1.197 -1.122 -0.067 -2.42	0.048 .025 .010 -140 057 .117 023 014 .063 .299 .108 .208 .119 .130 205 052 211 .539 .379 .186 .117 .538 .495	0.343244520126267118099095085019115027252078023143100128020086203009016003003009016	-0.233181292 1.74 .255 .110 .067049036010060049038104 .045 .064 .232 .085134156 .058111133 .003102101	-0. 218 . 100 - 229 . 205 . 047 - 080 - 004 - 048 - 128 - 066 . 000 - 054 - 047 . 038 - 042 . 032 - 018 . 125 . 003 - 203 - 191 . 076 - 111 - 201 . 016 - 133 - 338 . 057

Table 30.—Oat group for southern area (n=295),

Factor symbol	La La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
C			-0.094 .046	-0.075 101	0.070 .282	0.723 .419	0.390 .245	0.030 283	-0.098 .183	0.059 .095	-0.092 .181	-0.134 321	0.090 .051	-0.078 .058
				268 . 043	651 . 054 . 032	472 . 005 . 020	145 168 108	014 021 .013	200 . 402 010	329 .101 008	002 .349 .001	. 265 . 109 —, 025	020 .006 .034	080 .387 007
ST S ER							.168 .388	055 067 079	.211 .053 .012	.346 .105 .134	110 008	168 211 142	.081 .136 .114	177 008 101
EA 5 OM									051	062 .062	021 . 329 454	053 . 077 124	045 026	115 .330 .368
D D D Ch D Cu												125	254 . 008	. 297 . 437
D TI														
V Z														
rr yr														
VP P ME														
'M VH SD														

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.114 are significant at $P{=}0.05$.

Table 31.—Barley group for southern area (n=498),

											ap jor o			, /
Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
$egin{array}{c} LC & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ La & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ Al & \dots & \dots & \dots \\ TC & \dots & \dots & \dots \end{array}$					0.217 .357 392 .152 063	0.667 .556 376 .078 190	0.365 .347 234 .093 070	0.032 .161 .026 .110	0.050 .022 .038 .337	0.056 .073 .065 .114 199	0.122 .204 169 .522 130	-0.019 181 .262 .113 023	0.044 .072 .060 .121 156	0.118 .075 .101 .539 —.221
ST S ER L						.403	.323	.041 004 .176	016 015 .055 004	.017 014 016 014 .026	.047 .071 .102 .075 .331	073 168 094 .031 .127	.037 .053 .005 019 001	.012 037 005 .067 .347
DM DD DCh DCu D											.020		100 004	. 352 . 417 . 543 . 310
$egin{array}{cccc} TI & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & $														
WR I WP P ME														
IM WH SD											- -			

 $^{^{1}}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.089 are significant at P=0.05.

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	М	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	-0.035 .142 -0.49 .071 -001 .141 .100 .017 -0.98 .047 -0.054 -0.072 -0.60 -0.65 -1.51 .151										-0.006018026037000 .146036093088034033055048 .244 .113 .196015002 .018043 .013 .015002 .018043	0. 027	-0. 223 -034 -067 -127 -003 -050 -212 -138 -050 -026 -074 -094 -108 -128 -038 -012 -079 -178 -012 -079 -076 -056 -0325 -128

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	-0. 115 .035 .066009 .029 .072 .056 .104015004 .032163 .018 .041085 .150										-0.017 .013098015 .048 .101 .081 .088027 .079039083051001082 .154 .391009033 .120 .092 .096011 .112051 .197	0. 205 . 424	-0.168271 .136061 .077111207085062014 .012 .089 .040 .135 .009020084 .228 .018 .050 .063 .125010 .014 .045129088199025

Table 32.—Sorghum group for southern area (n=1,578),

Factor symbol	La	Al	T	TC	ST	S	ER	EA	L	DM	DD	D Ch	DCu	D
$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$														-
C														

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ With 1,000 degrees of freedom, values exceeding 0.062 are significant at $P{=}0.05$.

1947-51: Simple correlation coefficients 1

TI	W	C	M	TR	WR	I	WP	P	ME	IM	WH	SD	Y
	-0.079144007 .039 .034094094 .086 .067121 .010132040003117 .059								0.273052 279345283 .502085 .170 .146379 .144399142 .012300 .260 .032118 .254569425402025590	0. 296	-0.075213 .131079022033031 .045 .116050 .026003 .033 .038210 .024024029076111050 .034 .054	0.006006006006052052096012060119024121030068046129180034118065198171203012215107231084	-0. 129 009 092 001 078 104 066 091 067 011 090 068 249 124 008 266 090 177 210 047 068 154 067 083 156 077



